

To: ABD

12 June 1952

From: EFH

Subject: EVALUATIONS OF REPORTS

Evaluation of reports was sought by intelligence collecting elements from the early days of OSS, as an important aid in gauging customer's needs and guiding future collection. During the existence of OSS there was intermittent evaluation by Army's MIS and by OSS's own R and A Branch. In May, 1943, MIS undertook to evaluate all SI/OSS reports every eighth week. This was abandoned in 1944. In May, 1945, MIS agreed to evaluate 15 per cent of all SI/OSS reports, the particular reports to be specified by the producer. The system of R and A evaluations was launched in January, 1944. Some evaluating was also done, in their special fields of competence, by A-2 and the Foreign Economic Administration.

During this period, and particularly beginning in 1944, the drive to obtain evaluations of reports was part of a larger drive to obtain guidance and direction of the collection effort from all customers and using agencies and offices. This effort became acute as the fighting in Europe drew to an end. During active combat, intelligence objectives were predominantly military, and so lay in a narrow and well-defined field. But with the end of hostilities the field broadened to embrace virtually the entire spectrum of human knowledge, and the collector in the field was thoroughly befuddled as to where to direct his energies. This drive to obtain both requirements and evaluations has continued uninterrupted into the present, and the appetite of the collectors for guidance from the users has never been satisfied.

ORE undertook to evaluate every report received from OSO and OO

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on 1 June '47, under the terms of ORE Instruction #26-47, published on 29 May '47. This specified that a grading sheet would be executed for every report received, and a consolidated grading sheet, by areas, would be prepared monthly. (This Instruction cancelled ORE Instructions #13-47 and 14-47, for which search is now being made for us) ORE Operational Procedures - Instruction #31, dated 19 September, '50, superseded the 1947 Instruction, and set up a deadline of two days for the execution of the grading sheet. On 21 October '51, evaluation procedures were made agency-wide by CIG Regulation #110-50-8, which established the principle that evaluations would be made by consuming offices on reports individually specified by the producing office.